



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BLOOMINGTON FIELD OFFICE (ES)
620 South Walker Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47403-2121
(812) 334-4261 FAX 334-4273

TAKE
PRIDE IN
AMERICA

September 30, 1993

Mr. Steven R. Bosko
Weston Designers/Consultants
Three Hawthorn Parkway, Suite 400
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061-1450

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



289884

RECEIVED
OCT 1 1993
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
VERNON HILLS, IL

Dear Mr. Bosko:

This responds to your August 4, 1993 letter requesting information on Federally threatened and endangered species for fulfillment of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ARCS contract for a site located in St. Joseph County, Indiana. This information will assist in preparation of the site's Hazardous Ranking System (HRS) Score.

The area described in your letter is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) and peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus). The Indiana bat uses woodland areas during the summer when maternity colonies utilize trees with loose bark for nesting. These bats forage primarily over wooded stream corridors, although they have been collected in grazed woodlots, mature deciduous forests, and pastures with trees. Ideal foraging habitat consists of a riparian corridor with at least 30 meters of woody vegetation on each bank.

The peregrine falcon is considered a habitat generalist. Suitable habitat for peregrines is characterized by (1) an abundant prey base (pigeons and starlings), (2) in close proximity to a waterway (river or lake), (3) access to tall structures (>35 feet), and (4) existence of nesting sites (ledges on cliffs or buildings). South Bend has had the rare opportunity to participate in the National peregrine falcon hacking program. Seventeen chicks were released from downtown South Bend. Latest monitoring reported that all but 4 of the birds had dispersed. Falcons may disperse several miles from their point of origin, however, if suitable habitat is available nearby the birds will remain in the release area.

It is possible that both the aforementioned species could be or could have been utilizing the area of concern. Further site-specific investigation would be needed to confirm this.

CANDIDATE OR PROPOSED SPECIES

The following candidate species are not afforded legal protection under the authorities of the Endangered Species Act (as amended); however, federal agencies are encouraged to consider the species because the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) may proceed at any time with listing actions.

Black tern (Chlidonais niger)-ponds, marshes, and wetlands

Blanding's turtle (Emydoidea blandingii)-shallow, quiet, warm water surrounded by grassland, grassy marshes, drainage ditches

Royal catchfly (Silene regia)-dry, prairie habitat, roadsides
Henslow's sparrow (Ammodramus henslowii)-Mesic grasslands; tall herbaceous
vegetation

Again further site investigation is necessary to determine if all 4 of these species
are still extant or were extant within the concerned area.

This response is provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat.
884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to ensure the protection of endangered and
threatened species and does not address other FWS concerns for fish and wildlife.
If the site is formally ranked on the National Priorities List, we recommend that
future work plans for the sites be reviewed by the Biological Technical Assistance
Group, an interagency technical assistance forum for project managers set up by the
EPA (Region V). Furthermore, if remedial actions are required at these sites, we
recommend that all "applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements" (ARARs) are
complied with in the implementation of cleanup activities, including the Fish and
Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat., 401, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the Migratory Bird
Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), the River and Harbor Act of 1889 (33 U.S.C.
401, 403), and the Clean Water Act (U.S.C. 1344 et seq.).

If you have any questions regarding these comments or require further technical
assistance, please contact Jennifer Szymanski at (812)334-4261ext204.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David C. Hudak", written in a cursive style.

David C. Hudak
Supervisor

cc: IDNR, Indianapolis, IN -- (Faatz)
IDNR, Heritage Program, Indianapolis, IN
IDNR, Indianapolis, IN -- (Jose)
USFWS, Division of Endangered Species, St. Paul, MN (TJMiller)